

Message Text

PAGE 01 NEW DE 15311 310802Z

12
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
----- 123900

O 310705Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 15311

EXDIS

EO: 11652 : GDS
TAGS: MILI, XO
SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP

REF: STATE 252323; STATE 252333

DEPARTMENT PASS Laterally as desired

1. IN THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE, THE DCM CALLED ON
JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE AMERICAS TEJA DECEMBER 31,
TO DISCUSS THE INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP. SAYING THAT
THE AMBASSADOR HAD ASKED HIM TO GET THE INFORMATION TO
THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND DRAWING ON BOTH MESSAGES
UNDER REFERENCE, THE DCM MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE SECRETARY WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL AND THE
AMBASSADOR WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH HAD
DISCUSSED US INTENTIONS IN REGARD TO THE CARRIER
ORISKANY. THE DCM WISHED TO PURSUE THIS MATTER
FURTHER ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

B. PRESENT US INTENTIONS ARE FOR THE ORISKANY TO LEAVE
THE INDIAN OCEAN IN MID JANUARY.

C. WE WILL NOT NOW BE SENDING ANOTHER AIRCRAFT
CARRIER TO REPLACE THE ORISKANY, BUT, UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES WE WILL BE MAINTAINING A LARGER THAN
USUAL NUMBER OF DESTROYERS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. ONE
SECRET

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OF THESE IS A NUCLEAR-POWERED FRIGATE, THE USS BAINBRIGE,
WHICH HAS ALREADY ENTERED THE INDIAN OCEAN.

D. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE

THE PRESENCE OF THE BAINBRIDGE AT NOON IN WASHINGTON
ON DECEMBER 31. (TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT PASSED ON).

E. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN A CARRIER AND A DESTROYER ESCORT CLASS SHIP
SUCH AS THE BAINBRIDGE.

F. THE DEPARTURE OF THE ORISKANY AND SEVERAL OF
THE SHIPS WITH IT WILL LEAVE A DIMINISHED US PRESENCE
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

G. THESE MOVEMENTS OF US VESSELS SHOULD NOT, OF COURSE,
BE TAKEN AS ANY INDICATION OF OUR INTENTIONS
REGARDING FUTURE DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

2. TEJA TOOK CAREFUL NOTES AND PROMISED TO INFORM THE
FOREIGN MINISTER WITHOUT DELAY. HE HAD NO COMMENT TO
MAKE WHICH WENT BEYOND WHAT THE GOI HAS ALREADY SAID ABOUT
ITS CONCERNS ABOUT BOTH US AND SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS IN THE
INDIAN OCEAN. HE ENDED THE CONVERSATION
BY NOTING THE PLANS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ORISKANY
AND SEVERAL OF THE SHIPS WITH IT AND CONCLUDING THAT THIS UN-
DOUBTEDLY MEANT THAT THE US NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN WOULD BE LESSENED.
MOYNIHAN

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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